

To: R7 Daily Digest Group[R7_Daily_Digest_Group@epa.gov]
From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Thur 12/11/2014 10:15:09 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 12/11/14

OPA Daily Digest for 12/11/14

None

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Wall Street Journal – John Emshwiller – 10/31/14: Questions regarding West Lake site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Jacob Barker – 11/21/14: Requesting interview about West Lake Landfill. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Prairie Communications (Muscatine, Iowa) – Brad Gibson – 12/11/14: Interview regarding PM2.5 plan and agencies and groups working together to improve Muscatine Air Quality. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Editorial: Human nature vs. global warming. Humans are

winning, and that's bad news - 12/10/14 - Nations that were serious about mitigating global warming would have slapped a big tax on carbon and used the proceeds to arm themselves against the worst effects of global warming. That's won't happen until it's too late, which it may already be. It may well be too late to forestall that 3.6 degree rise, but in the long term, our children and grandchildren will thank us for whatever we can do — while cursing us for not doing more. http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/columns/the-platform/editorial-human-nature-vs-global-warming-humans-are-winning-and/article_d3ea509e-6c75-5349-a1da-d801955fc435.html

Politico - McCarthy Interview: 'It's a Matter of Doing Our Job.' | The EPA administrator defends Obama's climate push - 12/10/14 - s President Obama has amped up his climate rhetoric in his second term, Gina McCarthy, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, has been responsible for translating his lofty aspirations into thousands of pages of complex regulations. <http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/12/gina-mccarthy-epa-interview-113481.html>

Iowa Farmer Today - Livestock producers prepared for EPA-inspection changes - 12/10/14 - Livestock producers work closely with the DNR to make sure feed operations manure storage works smoothly, a common practice, says Chris Gruenhagen, government relations counsel with the Iowa Farm Bureau. http://www.iowafarmertoday.com/news/crop/livestock-producers-prepared-for-epa-inspection-changes/article_27f964f2-808f-11e4-a01c-9f72d54412c4.html

Iowa Public Radio - Grassley Says Congressional Republicans Will "Neuter" EPA Proposal - 12/10/14 - A proposal to modify the Clean Water Act, known as the Waters of the U.S. rule, will face stiff opposition come January, says U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley. That's when both the House and the Senate will be held by the GOP. <http://iowapublicradio.org/post/grassley-says-congressional-republicans-will-neuter-epa-proposal>

Midwest Energy News - A small-town Kansas bank is helping lead a solar revolution - 12/11/2014 - In Kansas, where state and utility policies offer almost no incentives for the development of residential solar energy, one solar installer and a small-town banker have cobbled together an unusual financing system that is leading to a statewide solar boom. <http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2014/12/11/a-small-town-kansas-bank-is-helping-lead-a-solar-revolution/>

Politico - EPA may miss deadline on climate rule - 12/10/14 - The Obama administration is on

the verge of missing its January deadline for finishing a landmark regulation (the future power plants rule) in the president's climate agenda — a delay that supporters insist doesn't imperil the effort. <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/12/epa-climate-rule-deadline-113477.html>

Government Executive - Winners and Losers From the Deal to Avoid a Shutdown -

12/10/14 - Federal employees can take a deep sigh of relief, as it appears likely a government shutdown will be avoided. Congressional appropriators struck a deal late Tuesday to fund most federal agencies through September, setting line-by-line spending levels for the remainder of the fiscal year. <http://www.govexec.com/oversight/2014/12/winners-and-losers-shutdown-avoiding-spending-bill/100968/>

Phys.org - Budget deal takes aim, but misses on climate plans - 12/11/14 - A congressional deal to finance the government chips away at some Obama administration energy and environmental programs, but leaves largely intact the president's plans on global warming—at least until Republicans take control of Congress next month. <http://phys.org/news/2014-12-aim-climate.html>

Greenwire - Winners and losers in Congress' big spending deal - 12/10/14 - The 1,600-page, \$1 trillion spending bill released last night -- less than 52 hours before the government is supposed to shut down -- contains a little something for everyone. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060010320>

Think Progress - 11 Senators Just Told EPA Its Carbon Rule Can Actually Cut More Power Plant Emissions - 12/10/14 - Eleven United States Senators think the new federal rule cutting the nation's carbon emissions could go even further. <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/12/10/3602137/senators-epa-more-carbon-cuts-power-plants/>

The Hill - Lawmakers frustrated at EPA over ethanol mandate delay - 12/10/14 - Lawmakers vented their frustration at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Wednesday over its repeated delays of the annual ethanol mandate. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/226669-lawmakers-frustrated-at-epa-over-ethanol-mandate-delay>

Midwest Producer - Ethanol proponents anticipating a fight - 12/10/14 - The biofuels

industry is gearing up for a fight, a national industry spokesman said. Doug Durante, executive director of Clean Fuels Development Coalition, predicted lawsuits over the Environmental Protection Agency's handling of quotas for renewable fuels and a hostile post-election U.S. Congress. http://www.midwestproducer.com/news/regional/ethanol-proponents-anticipating-a-fight/article_37fb0ddc-7fe1-11e4-9009-6f8a381f3229.html

Politico - House Republicans Voted Against the Environment More Than 500 Times in the Past Four Years - 12/10/14 - The House of Representatives will end its legislative session this week having recorded at least 234 votes against the environment in two years. <http://www.newrepublic.com/article/120508/house-floor-votes-against-environment-113th-congress>

Hannibal Courier-Post - BPW issues advisory regarding drinking water - 12/10/14 - For the third year in a row the Hannibal Board of Public Works finds itself having to advise its customers that a recent water sample was found to contain Disinfection Byproducts above drinking water standards. <http://www.hannibal.net/article/20141210/News/141219942>

CNBC - No, cheap oil will not kill solar power - 12/10/14 - Solar energy investors seem to be running for the doors, fearing that cheap oil will erase demand for alternative energy. But it won't, say industry analysts. Oil and solar serve two different customers. <http://www.cnbc.com/id/102254283>

New Republic - Republicans: We Will Keep the Government Open If We Can Pollute the Air and Water More - 12/9/14 - Before House Republicans approve a \$1 trillion spending bill to keep the government open past Thursday night, they are making a few demands. Hampering the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to regulate is one of them. <http://www.newrepublic.com/article/120518/republicans-demand-epa-regulations-rolled-back-avoid-shutdown>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Railroad settles Mississippi River oil spill claim - 12/10/14 - A railroad has agreed to pay \$625,000 to settle allegations that it failed to adequately clean up a 2008 oil spill that damaged the shoreline and aquatic life in the Mississippi River between Iowa and Wisconsin. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/railroad-settles-mississippi-river-oil-spill-claim/article_1dd10d94-c6d3-5375-890c-ad8c57d4cad4.html

WNAX Yankton, S.D. - ACE Official Calls Sub Committee Hearing Theater - 12/11/14 - Wednesday, the House Energy Policy Subcommittee held a hearing looking at EPA's management of the Renewable Fuel Standard. EPA acting assistant administrator Janet McCabe testified. American Coalition for Ethanol Executive Vice President Brian Jennings says the hearing was slanted against ethanol and nothing more than "theater". - See more at: <http://wnax.com/news/180081-ace-official-calls-sub-committee-hearing-theater/>

Media Matters - Study: How Media Advanced Conservatives' Misleading "War On Coal" Narrative - 12/9/14 - Out of 223 articles published in major U.S. newspapers this year mentioning the phrase "war on coal," more than half failed to mention underlying issues that account for the coal industry's decline and the need for regulations. <http://mediamatters.org/research/2014/12/09/study-how-media-advanced-conservatives-misleadi/201806>

Cedar Rapids Gazette (Iowa) - Iowa in the Radon zone: Research shows dangers across the state - 12/10/14 - While listening to an Iowa Cancer Consortium presentation in 2012 on the dangers of radon and its connection with lung cancer, physician Cynthia Wolff began to wonder about her own home. <http://thegazette.com/subject/news/iowa-in-the-radon-zone-research-shows-dangers-across-the-state-20141210>

Grand Island Independent (Neb.) - Hastings Superfund site featured in National Geographic - 12/10/14 - Hastings has made the December 2014 issue of National Geographic, but it may not be for what you'd expect. The city of 25,000 is one of seven cities featured in an article titled "Wasteland." http://www.theindependent.com/news/local/hastings-superfund-site-featured-in-national-geographic-article/article_c4629eb4-80f6-11e4-a7de-3b2b50bb8afb.html

National Geographic - <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2014/12/superfund/voosen-text>

York News-Times (Neb.) - Allowance for test wells in ditches likely - 12/11/14 - A request from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractor, to place test wells in numerous locations inside county right-of-way, will likely be allowed. http://www.yorknewstimes.com/news/allowance-for-test-wells-in-ditches-likely/article_67cc46b0-80f5-11e4-857d-ff0333c9f3fe.html

Grand Island Independent (Neb.) - Off-site RDX contamination cleanup completed -

12/10/14 - Grand Island has hit a 33-year milestone. Groundwater contaminated with unsafe levels of TNT and RDX is no longer beneath Grand Island city limits.

http://www.theindependent.com/news/local/off-site-rdx-contamination-cleanup-completed/article_78347f82-80f4-11e4-9dd3-cb4d4f8e1a33.html

Heartland Connection (Southwest Missouri) - Des Moines River dyed green for tests – 12/Parts of the Des Moines River in Ottumwa briefly turned green as the Water Pollution Control Facility conducted a series of tests.

<http://www.heartlandconnection.com/news/story.aspx?id=1134501>

Brownfield Ag News - Protect the Harvest highlights agricultural industry - 12/10/14 - Brian Klipenstein, executive director of Protect the Harvest, believes the best way to strengthen the agriculture industry is by making connections to consumers one person at a time.

<http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/12/10/protect-harvest-highlights-agricultural-industry/>

New York Times - New Studies Close in on Methane Leaks and Bolster Calls for Strong E.P.A. Rules - 12/10/14 - A new peer-reviewed analysis of sources of leaks in natural gas

drilling and well operations strongly bolsters growing calls for the Environmental Protection Agency to settle on regulations cutting wasteful, harmful emissions of methane from both new and existing oil and natural gas wells. <http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/12/10/new-studies-close-in-on-methane-leaks-and-bolster-calls-for-strong-e-p-a-rules/>

Smithsonian - The Ocean Contains Over Five Trillion Pieces of Plastic Weighing More than 250,000 Tons - 12/10/14 - The frightening figures of plastic in the ocean represent the most robust estimate of marine plastic pollution calculated to date.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/ocean-contains-over-five-trillion-pieces-plastic-weighing-more-250000-tons-180953576/>

Yale Environment 360 - Will New Technologies Give Critical Boost to Solar Power? -

12/11/14 - Promising new technologies, including more efficient photovoltaic cells that can harvest energy across the light spectrum, have the potential to dramatically increase solar power generation in the next two decades. But major hurdles remain.

http://e360.yale.edu/feature/will_new_technologies_give_critical_boost_to_solar_power/2832/

Bloomberg View - Start Worrying About Your Tap Water - 12/8/14 - Americans take for granted that every time they turn the faucet, clean water will pour out. Yet, cracks are appearing in the system that ensures the supply of safe, drinkable tap water, and the efforts to repair the damage are increasingly contentious. <http://www.bloombergtview.com/articles/2014-12-08/start-worrying-about-your-tap-water>

The Auto Channel - EPA Must Improve Administration of the Renewable Fuel Standard, Not Seek Legislative Change to It, BIO Says - 12/10/14 - The EPA's delays in administering the Renewable Fuel Standard generate uncertainty for the advanced biofuel industry and undercut investment, the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) said today in reaction to the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care & Entitlements' hearing on the agency's administration of the program. <http://www.theautochannel.com/news/2014/12/11/120659-epa-must-improve-administration-renewable-fuel-standard-not-seek-legislative.html>

New York Times - New Studies Close in on Methane Leaks and Bolster Calls for Strong E.P.A. Rules - 12/10/14 - A new peer-reviewed analysis of sources of leaks in natural gas drilling and well operations strongly bolsters growing calls for the Environmental Protection Agency to settle on regulations cutting wasteful, harmful emissions of methane from both new and existing oil and natural gas wells. <http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/12/10/new-studies-close-in-on-methane-leaks-and-bolster-calls-for-strong-e-p-a-rules/>

New York Times - North Dakota Regulators Tell Producers to Filter Crude Oil of Flammable Liquids - 12/9/14 - North Dakota regulators on Tuesday ordered producers pumping oil from the Bakken shale field to begin removing flammable natural gas liquids from their product before shipment in an effort to prevent deadly explosions involving trains. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/10/business/energy-environment/north-dakota-regulators-tell-producers-to-filter-crude-oil-of-flammable-liquids.html>

The Hill - Greens ask Obama to go big on coal ash - 12/08/14 - A coalition of environmental groups reminded President Obama Monday that they want him to set set strong standard for coal ash storage. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/226312-greens-ask-obama-to-go-big-on-coal-ash>

Argus Media - US EPA mum on timeline for biofuel blending rules - 12/10/14 - A US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) official today declined to give US lawmakers a

timeline for issuing long-delayed biofuel blending mandates.

<http://www.argusmedia.com/News/Article?id=961461>

The Hill - Lawmakers frustrated at EPA over ethanol mandate delay - 12/10/14 -

Lawmakers vented their frustration at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Wednesday over its repeated delays of the annual ethanol mandate. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/226669-lawmakers-frustrated-at-epa-over-ethanol-mandate-delay>

Environmental Leader - Hazardous Materials Recycling Rule Finalized - 12/10/14 - The EPA has finalized a hazardous materials recycling rule that requires, among other things, off-site recycling at a facility with a RCRA permit or verified recycler variance.

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/12/11/hazardous-materials-recycling-rule-finalized/>

Huffington Post - Congress Stuffed Some Coal In Its Omnibus Package - 12/10/14 - The 1,000-page omnibus spending package released Tuesday night is reigniting a fight over rules for U.S. financing of coal plants abroad. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/12/10/omnibus-coal-financing_n_6304622.html

CleanTechnica - Upgrading Transmission Lines Would Unlock The Saudi Arabia Of Wind - 12/11/14 - Wind is widely considered the most environmentally friendly source of electrical generation available. It is no secret that the wind resource in the Great Plains states is extraordinary, so much so that wind energy professionals have dubbed this region the “Saudi Arabia” of wind. <http://cleantechnica.com/2014/12/11/upgrading-transmission-lines-unlock-saudi-arabia-wind/>

Daily Kos - Environmental and nutritional standards on long list of losers in spending bill - 12/11/14 - A government spending bill is a government priorities bill. So with Congress preparing to vote on the bill needed to keep the government from shutting down, what priorities have been slipped in or knocked out? <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/12/10/1350735/-Environmental-and-nutritional-standards-on-long-list-of-losers-in-spending-bill>

WatchDog - TransCanada: Low gas prices don't affect Keystone XL - 12/11/14 -

TransCanada is downplaying any suggestion that plunging gas prices have put the controversial Keystone XL pipeline in further jeopardy. <http://watchdog.org/186663/transcanada-gas-prices/>

The Guardian (U.K.) - John Kerry: climate change is now a security issue – 12/11/14 - US secretary of state will call on leaders at Lima talks to reach for an ambitious deal to fight climate change. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/dec/11/john-kerry-climate-change-security-issue>

Clean Energy (blog) - Countdown to coal ash rules from EPA - 12/10/14 - We are exactly 9 days away from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) official release of final rules for coal ash regulation that have been in the works ever since the catastrophic Kingston disaster of 2008. <http://blog.cleanenergy.org/2014/12/10/countdown-to-coal-ash-rules-from-epa/>

Southeast Coal Ash Waste - Legal Actions Around Coal Ash - 12/10/14 - In the absence of federal regulations and comprehensive state programs, there are several ways in which environmental groups and private citizens are working to hold utility companies accountable for their coal ash pollution. Here is a description of some current lawsuits that affect the Southeast. http://www.southeastcoalash.org/?page_id=52

House Energy & Commerce Committee (release) - Coal Ash Legislation Provides Urgently Needed Solution and Model For Regulation - 12/10/14 - The House Energy and Commerce Committee today released a new policy paper highlighting the committee's innovative solution to manage the disposal of coal ash through state and federal partnerships. <http://energycommerce.house.gov/press-release/committee-report-coal-ash-legislation-provides-urgently-needed-solution-and-model>

ClimateWire - More investors flock to climate-safe equities - 12/11/14 - Wall Street traders may jump into and out of any stock to pursue quick profits, but long-term investing predicated on environmental, social and corporate governance concerns is becoming increasingly common, according to a new report from the Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment, or U.S. SIF. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2014/12/11/stories/1060010373>

The Hill - EPA methane rules won't hit gas utilities, industry predicts - 12/11/14 - Natural gas utilities aren't expecting to be affected very much by potential methane leak regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/226794-epa-methane-rules-wont-hit-gas-utilities-industry-predicts>

ThinkProgress - Far More Americans Trust EPA Over Congress To Set Pollution

Standards - 12/11/14 - House Republicans sometimes describe the Environmental Protection Agency as a kind of rogue outfit; a threat to the American economy that hides its methods and needs to be “reined in.” But according to a new survey by the American Lung Association, far more Americans trust the agency over Congress to deal with pollution.

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/12/11/3602280/epa-trust-congress-poll/>

The Hill - Moderate Dems call for longer deadlines in EPA climate rule - 12/11/14 - Six moderate Democratic senators are asking the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to give states more time to comply with its climate rule for power plants. The lawmakers signing the letter were Sens. Claire McCaskill (Mo.), Amy Klobuchar (Minn.), Joe Manchin (W.Va.), Mary Landrieu (La.), Heidi Heitkamp (N.D.) and Joe Donnelly (Ind.). <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/226754-moderate-dems-call-for-longer-deadlines-in-epa-climate-rule>

Bloomberg - Democrats Join Republicans in Bashing Obama’s EPA in Congress - 12/11/14 -

The Environmental Protection Agency has been a frequent Republican target for its actions against pollution. Now it’s drawing fire from Democrats for inaction.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-12-11/democrats-join-republicans-in-bashing-obama-s-epa-in-congress.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

12/15-16/14 – Joint Region 7 & Region 8 Ag Meeting, Denver, Colo. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

1/7/15 – American Soybean Association Leadership College, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

2/3/15 – Air and Waste Management Association – 23rd Annual Environmental Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

DRA:

None

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events**AWMD**

12/11/2014– Attending the Missouri Emergency Response Commission meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Pat Reitz, 7674.

12/16/2014 – Attending tour of BNSF facility, Gardner, Kan. Contact: Amy Algoe-Eakin, 7942

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

12/12/14 – Asthma Awareness Planning Meeting with Black Health Care Coalition, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Althea Moses, 7649

12/12/14 – Schlagle High Schools Career Day, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

None

WWPD

12/15-16/14 – Joint Region 7 & Region 8 Ag Meeting, Denver, Colo. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

12/8-12/14 – EPA Water Quality Standards Academy training, Washington, DC. Contact: Pete Davis, 7372

Benjamin M. Washburn

Public Affairs Specialist

EPA Region 7

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